

W9/12/7 (21) 10f2

Hobart: 18 Sept 1892.
Sunday night.

Dear Dad,

Sal has just left a good fat letter for me to post, so there is no occasion for me to write much. Moreover it is just a chance whether this will reach you before you go, and fancy wasting two or three sheets of wit & wisdom to no purpose. I see Douglas has also left a letter for me to inclose. I have taken the liberty of reading it, to which I know he has no objection. It is quite a characteristic boy's letter. Your letter arrived yesterday, the one you wrote from the Scotts. Your York experiences were interesting; only you might have given me a lot more. Probably you saved the rest to tell when you come. As you say that you will be here before Christmas,

I suppose you will leave about the end of October, and so will have got all the money. Sarah has told you to get money from Holworthy, but she ought to have seen James Walch about it. However I suppose with Mrs. Harris's help there will be no difficulty about your getting it. If you are short you can arrange to get more on my account from Holworthy. Probably he will get you to sign a draft on me for all you want; but you can arrange it in any way that is most convenient. I hope you will get any things that you want. Though perhaps you should not get too much painting materials - that is, of the common things you can buy at Walch's. It seems rather cool making a convenience of his agent to buy things in London, that you would otherwise buy at Walch's in Hobart.

Sam will have told you about poor Henry Clarke. He was laid up for about a week, and died early last Monday morning. The cause was disease of the liver. Dr Giblin told me some months since that it was a hopeless case, but he did not think that it would prove fatal so soon. He was buried on Wednesday morning behind Mr Nisbet's Church at New Town. I went with Sam & Rachel. Poor old Nisbet conducted the service & could hardly have been more inappropriate to the occasion. Poor Henry! His has been a sad wasted life, and perhaps it is best that the end has come so soon. Of course the Clarkes feel it very much, but it will really be a relief to them although they might not admit it, for he kept them in a perpetual state of anxiety. Indeed I think a good deal of

Mrs Clarke's illnesses have been due to worrying about Henry.

I meant to have gone up to Lancaster for a week's holiday, but had to stay for Henry's funeral - so did not get away until Wednesday night mail. I stayed at Oakley's - Sean was gushing as usual - but they could not have been kinder. I thought no trouble too much & let me do just as I liked. The lecture came off in the evening & was a success. About 200 to 300 there - more than I expected, & the lecture was very well received, though it was within a few minutes of two hours long. Of course without the lantern views this would have been impossible. I threw in as many allusions to L. & local compliments as I could decently do. It seems to have pleased & interested the people. Of course I saw Geo Waterhouse & his wife. Both they & Sean & Oakley enquired after you. I got back by Saturday's express.

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This afternoon I walked out to Summerhome & had tea with Mr & Mrs Clarke. Mrs C. seemed better than usual, but Mr C. was rather dismal. Alice & Grace & Arthur (with the baby) were there. Poppy & Lily are still at Kent House. They have to be out finally before the end of the month, & then the Wolfhagens go in.

The little mother had her 80th birthday on Wednesday. I went out for a drive in the afternoon. She has not been so well the last few days, but seems better this evening. She & Liz send their dear love.

I do not think I have any more to say so will conclude. Is there any chance of your coming home thro' Italy? or are you coming direct by the N.Z. line? I think they touch at Madeira & Rio.

Receive the blessing of yr
always affect brother
R.W.